1: Metraux E-5 (1934-1935) 1940
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Roussel (190, p. 426) states that a census taken between 1867 and 1870 showed a total population of 650. He believes that the population was never more than 5,000 or 6,000 because the interior of the island was never inhabited.

In 1869 Powell (180, p. 142) estimated the population at 800, and Palmer (169, p. 372) at 900 of whom one third were women.

In 1870 Gana (86) reported the population at about 600.

The disproportion of the sexes in the last half of the nineteenth century is not exaggerated. Roussel, who knew the island well, states that formerly the number of women exceeded the number of men but that women seemed more susceptible to smallpox and tuberculosis and that "out of three dead two are females." That this disproportion was abnormal is proved by native testimony and the present balance between male and female birth rates. Geiseler (87, p. 22) attributes the disproportion and the falling birth rate to the past, for he had heard that long before white contact there was but one woman to every five men. Disease may have been introduced by infrequent visits of whalers who before 1830 had contaminated the island with syphilis (162, p. 26).

The smallpox epidemic apparently ceased after the arrival of the missionaries, but mortality was still high and the population continued to diminish. Roussel (190, p. 427) gives a reason for this that is worth considering:

I know of no other reason for the decrease of the population other than deprivations of all sorts, the humidity of the huts, the bad air of the winter season, their immorality and their extreme imprudence in living with sick people. To frighten them with the threat of death is just useless. They do not care for life. They fear death as little as they like their relatives. As long as they hope to save a sick person they take care of him, but if the disease becomes serious, they abandon him and pay no attention to his requests or wants.

As a matter of fact the only disease on Rapa-nui is scrofula, but it seems to be very different from the ordinary kind. They suffer from dysentery, but so rarely that it is not dangerous. We had only two cases of tetanus and they were fatal, one case of apoplexy and one of cerebral congestion.

Bates (86, p. 51), the surgeon of the *O'Higgins* who visited the island in 1870, attributes the great mortality of the population to scrofula and consumption. He considers that premature marriages affected the birth rate. It is hard to tell exactly what he means by "scrofula" which he says was common among children, whereas adults died of "pulmonary ailments."

The lack of hygiene and the free sexual life of the girls cannot be considered as serious factors in the depopulation. Smallpox probably made the greatest ravages among young people, so that there is nothing surprising in the continued decrease in birth rate even after the epidemics were over. In addition to the other calamities war broke out among the islanders and was followed by a period of famine. In 1866, Ollivier (165, vol. 39, p. 257) wrote that the mortality caused by misery and famine was very high and that the missionaries had to take care of a great many orphans.

3:Drapkin D-5 (1934-1935) 1935
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perfect equilibrium between the births and the deaths. He remarks also that examples of longevity are more frequent in Easter Island than in more favored regions. At this time the oldest man was a chief named Mati, whose exact age was unknown, but both he and his wife must have been 90 years old.

Mrs. Routledge,[2] but especially Knoche,[3] give us in their works on Easter Island certain statistics which I consider necessary to quote here.

In 1900, there were 213 inhabitants. In 1911, there were 228, the two sexes equal in number. In 1912, there were 248, and in 1914, 250. In 1916, the population had reached 273.

In 1917, the total population of Easter Island was 301 inhabitants. This number included 3 Europeans, 18 Chileans, and 280 Polynesians, setting aside the question of the pure blood of these last. During 9 months of this year, there were 3 deaths and 12 births.

Until 1922 the situation remained stationary, with the exception of slight fluctuations. There were then 298 inhabitants, among whom were 2 Europeans, 4 Chileans, and 11 of mixed blood, half-foreign. Sexes were divided as follows: 156 men and 142 women. There were 46 children under 3 years, 123 children under 10 years, 26 persons over 50 years, and 9 persons over 80 years.

Our census of Easter Island gives, on December 31, 1934, the sum total of 456 natives. I have not included in my statistics the 13 whites who actually live there. These are 1 Frenchman, married to a native, who has lived in the island for 40 years; an Italian, who has been there for 30 years; an Englishman, administrator of the Easter Island Produce Company, with his wife and two sons; another Englishman, subadministrator of the same company; six Chileans, who are the Maritime Commissioner, supreme authority in the island, his wife, his son, the head of the school at Hanga Roa, and two women married to natives.

According to age the natives may be divided into five categories:

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Infants under 2 years | 32 | 21 | 53 |
| Children from 3 to 12 years | 86 | 77 | 163 |
| Adolescents from 13 to 20 years | 45 | 45 | 90 |
| Adults from 21 to 50 years | 61 | 67 | 128 |
| Adults 50 and over | 4 | 18 | 22 |
| Total | 228 | 228 | 456 |

Two interesting facts deserve attention: first, the perfect equilib-

[2] Routledge, Mrs. Scoresby, The mystery of Easter Island, London, p. 140, 1919.
[3] Knoche, Walter, Die Osterinsel, Concepción, Chile, pp. 154-157.

3:Drapkin D-5 (1934-1935) 1935
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Provincial Director of Public Instruction, Valparaiso. It is entirely due to these circumstances that there is a large number of illiterates among the Easter Islanders, in spite of their remarkable intelligence and their extremely keen desire for education.

Easter Islanders, in the manner of most of the Polynesians, are of an open, observing nature, having extraordinary faculties for assimilation. They are constantly on the watch for every new bit of knoweldge and adopt with a veritable passion every innovation, material or intellectual. Individuals of exceptional talent should have special advantages. Their present condition does not favor them at all in this respect.

Because Easter Island belongs to Chile, the official language is Spanish, naturally. Up to the present the Chilean influence consists only of the presence of a Commissioner whose functions include those of Civil Registration Officer and Schoolmaster. Therefore it is not surprising that most of the natives, if they understand Spanish, do not speak it except very badly. Only a small group of individuals are capable of more or less correct expression in this language. The women are even more conservative in their language and traditions; there are few who can carry on a conversation in Spanish.

We shall consider as illiterate all natives who do not read or write any language, for quite a number among them read and write the Easter Island language or Tahitian. Without counting the children under 10, of whom there are 183, there are actually 147 illiterates, that is to say 53.85 percent. One hundred and twenty-six, or 46.15 percent, read and write.

## VITAL STATISTICS

It would be necessary, in order to complete this brief contribution to the demography of Easter Island, to give statistics for births, mortality, marriage, sanitary conditions, etc. Unfortunately, various circumstances have made this task impossible. The bureau of civil registry, installed at Hanga Roa in 1915, has been neglected. Also no official census of the population has been made until now. In addition, the island is without doctors who could have studied the sanitary conditions and the causes of death. To complete the difficulty, one series of the records of the civil registry has disappeared.

3:Drapkin D-5 (1934-1935) 1935
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To satisfy my conscience I shall however publish a few facts that I [114 163 165] have been able to gather together.

During 17 years, that is to say from 1915 to 1931 inclusive, the percentage of births each year was as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Legitimate** | |
| Male | 7 |
| Female | 6 |
| **Illegitimate** | |
| Male | 3 |
| Female | 2 |
| Total | 18 per year (10 male and 8 female) |

The percentage of marriages during 13 years has been three each year (from 1919 to 1931 inclusive). The mortality, during this same period of time, averages 10 each year, 4 children and 6 adults. As to the causes of death and sicknesses in general I can say nothing, for the reasons above stated.